Master Ardick, just reached his majority and thrown upon his own resources, after stating his case to one Houthwick, a shipmaster, is shipped as second mate on the Industry, bound for Havana. Mr. Tym. the supercargo, descries a sail. The strange wessel gives chase, but is disabled by the Industry's guns. In the fray Capt. Houthwick and one of the crew are killed, but the Industry is found to be little damaged. Sellinger, first mate, takes charge and spurs late Sidmouth to secure a new mate. Sellinger , first mate, takes charge and sputs lato Sidmouth to secure a new mate. Several days later, when well out to sea, an English merchantman is met, whose captain has a letter addressed to Jeremiah Hope, at Havana. The crew of the vessel tell strange tales of the buccanser Morgan, who is sailing under the king's commission to take Panama. One night a little later, the English vessel having proceeded on her course, a bit of paper is slipped into Ardick's hand by one of the sailors. This is found to be a warning of a mutiny plot beaded by Pradey, the new mate. Ardick consults Mr. Tym. They resolve to secure the mate, but Pradey, eavesdropping in the cabin, makes through the dorr and arouses the crew. Capt. Sellinger joins Ardick and cabin, makes through the dorr and arouses the crew. Capt. Sellinger joins Ardick and Tym. The crew break through the now harricaded door, but are forced to retire, having lost seven of their number. Finding themselves now too short-handed to manage the boat, Pradey decides to scuttle and desert the vessel, taking his men off in the only available boat. The captain, supercarge and second mate soon discover their plight, but hastily constructing a raft bet away just before their vessel sinks. The eart morning a Spaniard draws near them. The man in the rigging shouts: "If you would board us, take to your oars. Be appeedy, or you will fall short." On board they are sent forward with theorew, being fall they will be sold as always or reaching cold they wil be sold as slaves on reaching panama. The ship's cook they find to be Mao Ivrach, "frae Clagvarloch," so a friend. Four days later the Spaniard is overhauled by a buccaneer flying the English flag. The three Englishmen and Mac Ivrach plan to escape to the buccaneer on a rude raft. Sellinger, the last to attempt to leave the Spaniard, is disabled. Just affer the others put off they see a figure of the others put off they see a figure. after the others put off they see a figure danging from the yard arm, whom they suppose is Capit Sellinger. They now ap-proach the buccaneer and hall her.

CHAPTER X .- CCNTINUED.

Nearer he came, and at last his broad bow, with its stump of the spritsail mast, was close at hand. A crowd of figures showed above the low bulwark of the foredeck, and I looked excitedly till one of them should hall. It was only a moment. A mar in a cuirass and headpiece, standing by weather shrouds, leaned over and put his hand to his mouth.

"Raft aboy!" I sprang to my feet, all the old

strength of my voice returned.

"Board the ship!" I roared back.

"We are English!" It was surely unnecessary now to tell him that we were in distress.

She came into the wind, and while ther bows beat up a great smother of foam and her sails flapped and thundered, the line snaked out and I seized it and made it fast. We were hauled rapidly in, and a dozen strong, sunburned hands helped us scramble up the side.

"Square the yards!" roared the same voice that had hailed me.

Men knocked by me to the after spaces, and I was too confused to get out of the way, sailor though I was:

"Well, and how is it with you now? asked a new and quiet voice, and I started and stared like a fool, for the owner of the voice was Nicholas Pra-

gained a step in advance, but the rush tion. It seemed to us now that he had ded deck had pressed him back. He was not at my side. Pilanca. therefore, when the villain addressed his question to me.

For the life of me I could not lay instant hold of the word to answer. The surprise, the feeling that fate had played us a trick, something like the suggestion that the rogue was destined, in spite of all, to triumphthese mingled impressions confused me and held the words back on my

But a was the business of an instant, and by that time Mr. Tym was at my clbow. He had made out the vil-Main, though it seemed he had not caught the exact purport of the inlooked the fellow in the face. "What may be your question, sir?

I trust it may be such that the answer can be brief."

"Nay," he answered, leisurely, "your manner is a bit stiff and unfriendly. Best take some further consideration and then we will discourse. Meanwhile you have wants that shall be attended here, as well as this good fellow, with drier clothes than you have. Lieut. Phibbert!"

A big fellow in steel headpiece and body armor, but otherwise in ordinary sea habit, pushed out of the crowd.

"Have these people below. Bestow this one in the vacant berth off the eabin, and find the others bunks in the steerage. Ask Lieut, Niles for a shift for this gentleman-I opine they are near the same bigness-and have Ardick and the other. In truth," he concluded, with a cold grin, "we do our calling no discredit in bestowing this hospitality, for I can over that these not know, that she belongs to Capt. two, at least, are rare fighting men!"

Mr. Tym puffed out his lips and sucked them back, as his habit was when perplexed or in thought, and

after a glance at me, answered: "Speaking for myself, I would choose to have as little as possible between us; yet I acknowledge that we are not wholly in case to refuse your offers. Let our absolute needs be met, then, since it must be so, but ask us not-I am sure I speak for Master Ardick as well as for thyself-ask us not to exchange more than the strictest need of words with you. Further, I refuse

"Be it so: I care not how you have it. Go where you wish, and to as mum ma you like. I make but the one condinothing of old matters. At a later time I will send for you."

"Well," said Mr. Tym, "we are con formable to that, are we not, friends?" Both Mac Ivrach and I assented. "Get refreshments, then," said

Pradey, turning away, "and at a proper

can be found to thaw the cockles," said

the lieutenant. rom a locker hard by a hospitablelooking black bottle. Glasses were in the rack overhead, and he filled four and bade us tosa off. It proved to be very good sack, and was most acceptable, chilled and weary as we were. The lieutenant kept us company, and when we had all emptied a second of the small glasses, he opened the low door leading into the 'tween-decks, and piloted us along to the steerage. As the ship carried no cargo, all this space was given up to sleeping accommodations, but in truth there was no room

to spare, as the company was so great. The lieutenant, who, like most big. fleshy men, seemed rather good-na tured, and who might have been made more so by the wine, bade us find places and make ourselves at home, and withdrew to hunt up the clothes. These came in due time, not ill-fitting sea rigs, but better than we expected, Mr. Tym's,

in particular, very trim and decent. While we were shifting, we re lleved Mac Ivrach's curiosity by telling him into whose hands we had fallen. After concluding, we all agreed that we could do no more now than to conduct ourselves quietly, treating the buccaneers in a civil manner, and beyond that must wait for Pradey's disclosure. What that might be we hazarded some guesses about, but, of course, could re-

solve nothing certain. We did not specially avoid Pradey and, indeed, secretly hoped that he would be out with his communication, so that we could tell what to depend upon, but somewhat to our disappointment he made no sign. We talked a little, but guardedly, with the crew, killed outright and others drowned, explaining briefly, in answer to their questions, how our adventure oc- The ship was a buccaneer, one of those

portant change in the situation. The the latter had then been shot in turn very nearly held her own, but carrying fully as much canvas forward as | tion, and as I made no scruple to put patched-up must warranted. Supper was served both below and on deck. and we chose ours in the latter place, our mess tub being shared in comm with an Englishman, two Swedes and a

We found the fare very good-far beyond what it would be on any merchant ship, and certainly better than everything washed down with plenty of wine and ale.

The meal over, we lounged about the



ships weather rail, which we over hung, watching the chase and talking, Pradev at last took in all but his chief sails, the wind now seriously threatening the weak forward spars, and the Mr. Tym had waited for me, having canvas there was shortened in proporgiven up all hope of overhauling the

The moon rose, and we continued to hang about that part of the deck. like a bivouac, with the groups of re-

All about us the lights of the men's pipes sprang up, and the scene was cumbent figures and the glancing of Only a small number of persons, as

I found, were appointed for a watch. The rest idled about or went below as they pleased. As yet there was no particular disorder among them, and no fighting or noticeable drunkenness. We were together at the rail, talking in subdued voices, and, what with the poor captain's death and the

quiry. He drew himself up sternly and things that had happened to us, to a certain degree fallen into a little melancholy, when Mr. Tym's name was lain's old offense-that is the stick!" spoken, and we turned to behold

"Well, sir," said the rascal in an amicable voice, "I trust you and your it the man might listen to a bit comfriends here find yourselves in better spirits than you were. I have a bit of leisure at this time, and if you are We can fit you and Master Ardick. ready we will have the discourse I spoke of."

We were quite willing to hear him, and readily said so, and he bade us follow him to the cabin.

lamp. Pradey signed us to seats on the lockers, and himself took a place at the end of the table, with his back to his own stateroom.

"I do not purpose to waste time in boxing the compass," he began as the slop chest overhauled for Master | soon as we were seated, "but will be at the bottom of the business at once. You see me in command of this tidy ship, and I will inform you, if you do Henry Morgan's fleet of special commissioners. Now I conceive I need not pledge ourselves as we may? Then spin out an argument to convince you that your future must depend upon my

friendship." He paused, as though expecting some sort of reply, and Mr. Tym said

briefly: "And if so, what then?" "Why, then," he went on a little sharply, "it behooves you to do all in | rights of it," he added, almost immediyour power to please me, and move me to further kindness. Look you! I have little cause to love you, and yet, on easy conditions, I will overlook all. your offer of the cabin, and would be Say that you will join me, and swear sent forward with my friends."

Say that you will join me, and swear to reveal nothing of the old matters, and I will pardon the Ill you have done me, and stand your friend. In this Tym made the proposition. offer I include your companion, who, tion-you and the others shall blab I presume, is posted as to our past re-

CHAPTER XI. OF THE BARGAIN WITH PRADEY. I cannot say that I had conceived anything like this, and yet I was not | fallen the prince of Wales. "And now, struck with very great surprise. It brethren," continued the unwitting we followed on dripping in the wake could not so well dispose of us as to seemed pretty evident that Pradey cleric, "we will join in singing hymn

"Stand by and I will see what butcher us in cold blood would make a very stirring bit of talk that would be like to trouble him in the future. If Morgan indeed held a royal commission, then his deeds and those of his captains must not be altogether lawless, and he must not have too much blood of his own countrymen on his hands. Provided that Pradey had found a way to silence the fellows from the Industry, he had only to win us over and he might return even to England in safety. But as to complying with his proposition, that was another matter, and one which had more sides than I could turn about and come to a decision on in a moment. Nor did Mr. Tym, bold and resolute as he was, attempt a full and conclusive answer. He glanced at Mac Ivrach and me, and, finding that we wore doubtful expressions, made, for him, a very cautious

"We have heard you, Master Pradey," he said, "and while I, speaking for myself, hesitate not to reject one part of your proposition-to wit, that we should join your ship's companystill there are other points in the matter that require thought."

"Well, I will not press you," said Pradey, rather mildly, "and you may

have till morning for the answer." "Meanwhile," said I, thinking it a good time to settle one point, "be pleased to tell us how it came about that we find you here? Also what has become of your companions?"

"Why, that is a short story," said Pradey, with one of his cold grins. "The night of the day we left you it fell quite dark, and, the watch having fortified his courage with spirits, suffered himself to fall asleep, and a ship coming up ran us down. Some were and in the end I was the only one saved. cruisers sent out by Morgan, and was so unfortunate as to have just lost her captain. He had been killed in a wrangle with the first lieutenant, and by one of the crew. As no person was left aboard who understood navigathe present wind and her weak, myself forward, I was soon chosen captain, and when this was settled we stood away to rejoin the fleet. We shortly came up with it, when Capt. Morgan was pleased to confirm me in my place. About this time news was received of the sailing of the Pilanca, with the governor of Panama on board and, while most of the squadron stood for St. Catherine's, three of us were it was or is in the royal navy-and dispatched to intercept the don. I was the only one fated to fall in with him, and it seems that I have come rather disastrously off. I think you now have the whole story, unless it be that I forgot to tell Morgan and the rest quite all that had formerly happened to me, but spun a yarn about my ship taking fire and we poor creatures barely

> ers miserably perishing."
> "Well, sir, I thank you for the story," said I, "and, in truth, I am sorry for the poor sailoss, particularly for Lewson." "And now," he said, "you might give me, in return, an account of your own faring. Surely, when I looked over the rall to-day and saw your familiar faces

whipping off at short notice, the oth-

was not a little astonished." "As we were to see you," said I, "but, after all, it was a simple matter;" and with this I went on and related our

"At least there are those that are not born to be drowned," he said, laughing, "my worthy self included. Well, go now and think over the other matter. Let me know when you have come to a resolution."

We took ourselves off accordingly nd returned to the deck

"Well, friends," said Mr. Tym, as soon as we were secure in our places, what think you of all we have heard?" Mac Ivrach looked at me to answer,

and with a little hesitation I said: "But for the matter of covering the rogue's crime I should be for accepting his terms. I should count it no sucn dreadful thing to join the buccaneers, though once, I admit, I thought other-wise, and this sentiment is stronger

since the death of the poor captain." Mr. Tym nodded. "Aye, that is my reasoning," he said. "Moreover, it seems that Morgan does really bear a commission from the king. Pradey, as well as all before, speaks very confidently of it; so we may be pretty sure of the legality of the thing. But the vil-Here Mac Ivrach, who had been giv-

ing close heed, put in a word: "Is there no a middle course? I tak'

I had been thinking fast as the Scotchman spoke. "I cannot say," I replied; "I have

nothing clear, and yet- Stay! How as to a compromise in time? Say we would agree-under this stress-to cover the villainy for a period?"

The cabin was vacant, as we discovered by the aid of the single small ing his head. "Besides, Pradey would RECONATION, CATABRE, never consent." "But there is more to the matter," I HEADACHE, NERVOUS

went on, coming to a clearer conception of the thought myself as I talked. "As you say, he is desperate, and void of all conscience. Could we trust him. NEURALGIA, GENERAL DEBILITY in any case?"

"Why, no," he answered, a little per-

plexed; "but what then?" "Will he trust us, in turn? The base are always suspicious. Think you not he will seek to make 'way with us, why would he not agree to the compromise? Say we would swear to be secret till the end of the expedition? He would consent, I think, meaning to destroy us at the first opportunity."

"In truth, there is weight in what you say," said Mr. Tym, beginning to "Aye, doubtless you have the waver.

"Let us test it," I said. "Nothing is to be gained by waiting. My companions agreed, and we ac

cordingly went below and sought Pradey. He was on the quarter-ideck, and went aside with us, upon which Mr. [TO BE CONTINUED.]

It was an Ayrsbire parson, and into the customary prayer for the royal-ties be had introduced a feeling reference to the accident which had be-We followed on dripping in the wake of the lieutenant, and were has down the companion to a plainly furnished though desperate enough, did not present though desperate enough, did not present though the minister did cisely saft under the black flag, and to

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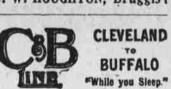
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